CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

The method of providing forward error
 correction for data services using a parallel concatenated convolutional code which is a Turbo Code comprising of a plurality of eight-state constituent encoders wherein a plurality of data block sizes are used in conjunction with said Turbo Code.

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- 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of eight-state constituent codes has a transfer function equal to $G(D) = [1, (1+D+D^3)/(1+D^2+D^3)]$.
- 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the Turbo Code comprises two constituent codes, the Turbo Code enabling a minimum code rate equal to 1/3.
- 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein a plurality of code rates greater than or equal to 1/3 are provided by the Turbo Code by puncturing one or more output coded bits from the two constituent encoders.
- 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of eight-state constituent codes has a transfer function $G(D)=[1,(1+D+D^3)/(1+D^2+D^3),(1+D+D^2+D^3)]$.
- 6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the Turbo 30 Code consists of two constituent codes, the Turbo Code enabling a minimum code rate equal to 1/5.
- 7. The method of Claim 6 wherein a plurality of code rates greater than or equal to 1/5 are provided by the Turbo Code by puncturing one or more output coded bits from the two constituent encoders.

- 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of eight-state constituent codes has a transfer function $G(D)=[1,(1+D^2+D^3)/(1+D+D^3)]$.
- 5 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the Turbo Code comprises two constituent codes, the Turbo Code enabling a minimum code rate equal to 1/3.
- 10. The method of Claim 9 wherein a plurality of code rates greater than or equal to 1/3 are provided by the Turbo Code by puncturing one or more output coded bits from the two constituent encoders.
- 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the Turbo
 15 Code consists of two constituent codes, the Turbo Code
 enabling a minimum code rate equal to 1/5.
- 12. The method of Claim 11 wherein a plurality of code rates greater than or equal to 1/5 are provided
 20 by the Turbo Code by puncturing one or more output coded bits from the two constituent encoders.
- 13. The method of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of eight-state constituent codes has a 25 transfer function $G(D)=[1,(1+D^2+D^3)/(1+D+D^3),(1+D+D^3)]$.